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Part 1- Page 14

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TOP SECRET

While the news photographers snapped the scene, President Eisenhower laid the corner stone for the hush-hush central intelligence agency's new building the other day. It's no secret that the building costs 46 million dollars and the roads leading to it another 9.4 million, but everything else about the CIA is very secret.

Until the cloak and dagger crowd moves into the new palace, they are doing business at their old stand in downtown Washington, and, while the corner stone laying was productive of much publicity, those telephoning the old headquarters couldn't get the time of day. The switchboard there doesn't even acknowledge that the caller is phoning the CIA. It just announces itself with its telephone number, and the caller is left to guess the rest.

This secrecy extended to the contents of the corner stone. When Mr. Eisenhower asked what was inside, he was told "It's a secret."

Boy, we bet all this leaves enemy spies confused. But not, we hazard, as confused as the American taxpayers, who know the new building and its roads cost about 56 million, but can't tell how much the operations of the agency cost, these being concealed in the federal budget, or what our intelligence network accomplishes. That's secret, too.

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